

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, non-elected claims 3-6 are canceled due to the finality of the Restriction Requirement. Claim 1 is amended to obviate an informality, as the Examiner requested.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document submitted November 28, 2003 with claim for foreign priority.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to obviate an informality, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0127824 to Mori et al. However Mori does not qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

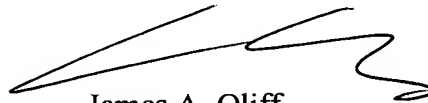
In particular, Mori has a U.S. filing date of September 30, 2003, which is later than the December 5, 2002 filing date of the Priority Document JP 2002-353672 of the present application. An accurate translation of JP 2002-353672 is submitted herewith to perfect the claim for foreign priority.

For at least the above reasons, Mori does not qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Translation of 2002-353672

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